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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION REPORT

**I. HEADING**

**DATE:** November 26, 2002

**SUBJECT:** **Roberto Clemente Mercury Spill Site, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois**

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**POLREP #: 3 (final)**

**II. BACKGROUND**

Response Authority: CERCLA Emergency Response-PRP oversight  
NPL Status: Non-NPL  
Site ID number: B55H  
Latitude: 41°54'08"N  
Longitude: 87°41'11"W  
State Notification: U.S. EPA assistance requested by CDOE  
Start Date: November 15, 2002  
Completion Date: November 25, 2002

**III. SITE INFORMATION**

**A. Incident Category**

CERCLA response to a mercury spill, several grams, in an active high school and residence.

**B. Site Description**

**1. Site location and background**

See POLREP 1 dated November 16, 2002 and POLREP 2 dated November 21, 2002.

**IV. SITE INFORMATION**

**A. Situation**

**1. Response activities to date**

On November 22, 2002, ERRS installed a linoleum floor in the residence over two coats of sealant, which had been placed on the floor the previous day and was allowed to dry overnight. After the linoleum was installed, caulk was used to seal around the floor boards of the residence. After installation of the floor, an attempt was made to heat the apartment so that air samples could be collected; however, the furnace would not light.

On November 23, 2002, ERRS, START, and EPA returned to the home. ERRS utilized a kerosene heater to heat the apartment for collection of the confirmation samples and called a repair company to fix the furnace for long-term use. The repair company stated that the furnace could not be repaired because of the age of the furnace and that the cheapest solution was replacement. START began collecting confirmation samples once the house was heated; average temperature during sample collection was about 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Five samples were collected including a duplicate sample in one location. Samples were collected in the daughter's bedroom, the son's bedroom, the main room, and in the kitchen. Two sample pumps were placed in the kitchen and a duplicate sample was collected from one of the pumps. After allowing the sample pumps to run for a minimum of four hours, START collected the samples and placed them in a cooler for shipment via FedEx same day service to AES Laboratory in Atlanta, Georgia. The samples were analyzed for mercury using NIOSH Method 6009.

On November 24, 2002, analytical results for confirmation samples collected on November 23, 2002, were received. All samples except for the duplicate sample had results less than the cleanup level of  $1.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . The duplicate sample, collected in the kitchen had a result of  $1.06 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . Two other samples collected in the kitchen had results of  $0.706 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and  $0.834 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

On November 25, 2002, a new furnace was installed in the apartment. Approval was received from ATSDR for the family's personal items and the family to return to the home. On the evening of November 25, 2002, the family returned home.

**B. Planned Removal Activities**

1) Removal activities at the site are complete.

**C. Other Information**

1) The family will be going to Cook County Hospital on Wednesday, November 27, 2002, for follow-up health monitoring.

**E. Estimated Costs**

	CEILING	COSTS TO DATE
START	\$ TBD	\$ Not Available
ERRS	\$ 25,000	\$ Not Available
Total	\$ TBD	\$ Not Available

**VI. Waste Disposal**

On November 20, 2002, one 30 yd roll off box of mercury-contaminated personal items was disposed off site. Items were taken to Michigan Disposal Treatment Plant in Belleville, Michigan.